"Recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee"

1374. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on the recommendations of Rakesh Mohan Committee on Small Savings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Report of the Rakesh Mohan Committee has provided necessary inputs for determining interest rates on small savings schemes, including introduction of a new small saving scheme for senior citizens.

Pending foreign exchange violation cases

1375. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases for recovery of penalty from foreign exchange violators under the erstwhile FERA are pending;

(b) how much is the total money due; and

(c) what steps are being taken or contemplated to be taken in this regard and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) 13,425 cases for recovery of penalty from foreign exchange violators under the erstwhile FERA are pending.

(b) The amount due is approximately Rs. 3395 crores.

(c) Various steps such as demand notices, launching of prosecution in the Court of Law and initiating recovery proceedings as arrears of land revenue through the Collectors of the Districts, have been taken for speedy recovery of penalties. It may, however, not be possible to specify the time frame to recover the penalties.

Loans by National Housing Banks

†1376. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans provided to different States and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

organizations by National Housing Banks during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether any specific measures are proposed to be taken to encourage housing activities in the States from where very small number of loan proposals have been received in comparison to other States; and

(c) if not, the details of alternative measures proposed to be taken to give encouragement to housing activities in economically backward and remote States.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) National Housing Bank (NHB) refinances eligible primary lending institutions against the individual housing loans extended by them. NHB also extends financial assistance to public agencies of States for housing and related projects. The details of lending to public agencies for projects for the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Himachal Pradesh	340.15	317.02	904.48
Rajasthan	733.34	1951.50	753.58
Madhya Pradesh	2019.72	754.33	1378.37
Maharashtra	—	—	1163.00
Gujarat	5999.35	96.04	249.61
West Bengal	1000.00	4000.00	—
Goa	119.10	187.31	—
Tamil Nadu	315.44	—	—
TOTAL :	10527.10	7306.20	4449.04

(b) NHB's assistance to a particular State depends on the receipt of viable project proposals from the public agencies. It has recently formulated the 'Project Finance Loan Policy' to widen the scope of financing viable projects of different States.

(c) Does not arise.